

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
FPAWS Litigation



2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

ML Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE			
GF-State	\$6,266,000	\$6,266,000	\$12,535,000
Total	\$8,355,000	\$8,355,000	\$16,710,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Children's Administration (CA) requests funding to implement a mediated agreement in the Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS) case in order to abide by the negotiated agreement. By funding this request, CA is expected to be compliant with the settlement agreement.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2011, FPAWS brought a suit against CA alleging the administration did not meet its obligations under Title IV-E to cover costs for Title IV-E categories of allowable costs incurred by licensed foster parents on behalf of IV-E eligible foster children. The primary issue in the case is whether CA provided adequate maintenance payments for normally developing children who receive a basic Level 1 payment. Also, under scrutiny in the case is a variety of ad hoc payments made to reimburse foster parents for costs such as transportation of foster children and clothing vouchers.

As part of the federal court process, the parties entered into a required mediation in July and August before trial was set to begin in September. This case has required the use of economic and federal experts to analyze data and estimate costs that would be associated with a foster parent caring for a foster child in 2014, and concerning the goods and services that fall within Title IV-E categories of allowable costs.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

This decision package requests to fund a settlement agreement achieved through mediation. The final cost models are still being developed. The detailed settlement agreement must be completed by the end of September 2014.



DSHS VISION
 People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION
 To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
 Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 5: Public Trust - Strong management practices will be used to ensure quality and efficiency. The decision package is essential to implementing the CA's Strategic Objective 3.5: Percentage of all children currently in care for at least one year who have not moved within 12 months of their previous move or their entry into placement will increase.

This package supports the Results Washington Goal 5: Effective, Efficient and Accountable Government - Fostering a Lean culture that drives accountability and results for the people of Washington.

CA will meet compliance with the legal settlement.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This settlement, if funded, will result in increased financial compensation for foster parents. Therefore, foster parents and stakeholders would be supportive of funding this proposal. In addition, CA anticipates that additional compensation and increased training may assist in retaining foster parents, giving more options for placement of foster children.



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